

Belmond  
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**Belmond seeks state  
help for 'dream' park**

Belmond is taking part in a statewide effort to develop tourism, culture, history and quality of life. The program is called Great Places. Cities, counties, and regional groups will present their visions of the future and compete to be one of three members of a pilot project.

As many as 145 or more ideas from 91 counties will be presented to a panel of 12 judges for consideration over the next few weeks. The proposals range from parks to main streets, from trails to daycare, and from theaters to rivers. Some projects involve a single community while others encompass as many as ten counties.

Belmond's Visioning Committee has developed a dream plan for River Park that could someday include an amphitheater, dam restoration, additional modern campsites, primitive campsites, more parking, a bridge from the east to west side of River Park, a pond, canoe and kayak access, and an expanded trail system.

Two of the twelve judges will be in Belmond next Tuesday at 10 a.m. for one hour to review the ideas of the Visioning Committee. The judges will take their impressions, a video, and the committee's power point presentation back to a meeting with the other ten jurors where final decisions will be made.

Each proposal will be evaluated by the judges using seven criteria.

1. An Iowa Great Place must value historical roots while embracing a shared vision which includes natives and newcomers.

2. An Iowa Great Place provides authentic, credible and varied opportunities for individual and community expression.

3. An Iowa Great Place promotes social interaction throughout the community with equal opportunity for all.

4. An Iowa Great Place contains a balance and growing mix of rewarding jobs and sustaining capital.

5. An Iowa Great Place offers clean, healthy and accessible natural environments that enhance the quality of life.

6. An Iowa Great Place contains infrastructure that is accessible and responsive to everyone.

7. An Iowa Great Place displays a shared attitude of optimism that welcomes new ideas based on a diverse culture.

The Great Places program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs in cooperation with 18 different state agencies. The final results and top three winners will be announced October 11 in Iowa City. Complete information can be found at [www.iowagreatplaces.gov](http://www.iowagreatplaces.gov).

